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Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu :—" May I ask whether we cannot appoint him again ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" If there is necessity, we will do so."

Experiments in extracting oil from oil seeds.

* 1520 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state with reference to question No. 686 answered on 26th November 1928 regarding experiments in extracting oil from oil seeds—

(*a*) the nature and extent of experiments carried on by the Government ;

(*b*) the result of such experiments ;

(*c*) whether these results were published ; and

(*d*) whether it is proposed to start any mills to demonstrate to the public the results achieved by the Government ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The hon. Member is referred to paragraphs 116 and 117 at pages 51–52 of the Administration Report of the Industries Department for the year ending 31st March 1928. The experiments with the Muller Oil Expeller are not yet complete and the Director has promised to report on their results as soon as the experiments are over. Systematic laboratory experiments were also conducted by the Superintendent, Kerala Soap Institute, with the Domag Oil Mill to compare the oil contents, etc., of the seeds as crushed in the mill and in the country chekku. The experiments have been completed and the Director will report shortly on their results.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government will consider these points as soon as the results are reported.

Excise

Reduction of the issue strength of country spirits as a measure of temperance reform.

* 1521 Q.—Mr. C. Gopala Menon : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have at any time considered the desirability of gradually reducing the issue strength of country spirits as a measure of temperance reform ; and

(*b*) whether any experiment has been conducted in any locality to watch the consumption of country spirits by reducing the issue strength ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) From time to time the Government have ordered a reduction of the issue strength of country spirits in various parts of the Presidency, as a measure of temperance.

Prohibition of the private possession of country spirits.

* 1522 Q.—Mr. C. Gopala Menon : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether the Government have considered the desirability of prohibiting private possession of country spirits altogether in the taluks where the experiment of closure of all arrack shops has been in force as a measure of real and complete prohibition ?

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Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" May I know from the hon. Minister whether the experiments in prohibition aim at the private possession of country spirits also ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" There is a certain limit fixed to the extent of which country spirits can be possessed by private individuals. That limit is being reduced year by year."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" In carrying experiments towards prohibition in selected areas, may I know whether the Government have prohibited the possession of country spirits altogether at least in those localities ? "

The hon Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" In those areas private possession of country spirits has not been altogether prohibited, but the quantity has been reduced to a certain extent."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" May I know whether the intention of the Government is to prohibit altogether the possession of country spirits by private persons ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The Government are now trying experiments by reducing the quantity of private possession ; if they are successful, the Government will consider the other question."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask what the limit was the year before last and what it is now ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Notice, Sir."

Rates of duty on liquors and spirits.

* 1523 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what the rates of duty are on locally made foreign liquor, country brewed beer and imported spirits ;

(b) what the rates of fixed licence fees are for the various kinds of foreign liquor shops ; and

(c) whether the Government are considering the desirability of increasing the rates of duty on imported spirits and the fixed licence fees charged for foreign liquor shops ?

A.—(a) Locally made foreign liquor—Rs. 17-8-0 per proof gallon.
Country brewed beer—8 annas per imperial gallon.
On imported spirits a customs duty is levied by the Government of India. No further duty is levied on them by the Local Government. A statement [a] showing the rates of duties levied by the Government of India is appended.

(b) Please see appended statement. [a]

(c) The Government have not under consideration any proposal to raise the fixed licence fees in respect of foreign liquor shops. The question of the raising of the rates of duty on imported spirits is one for consideration by the Government of India.

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 265–267 infra.